

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 4. This sheet, which includes Figs. 3-4, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 3-4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

The applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the application and requests reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner states that the specification and drawings do not disclose which portions of the spring are considered the width and thickness. The applicant submits that page 7, lines 15-18 and Fig. 4 of the subject application defines the width and thickness of the spring. To clarify these terms the applicant has amended this portion of the specification and Fig. 4. No new matter is added through the amendments.

The specification now states as follows:

As shown in Fig. 4, each coil 18 extends parallel to the glove portion which is the plane defined by the page of Fig. 4. Thus, the width *w* of the coiled spring closure element is parallel to the glove. Each coil 18 then turns in a rounded manner perpendicular to the plane of the glove defining the thickness *t* of the coiled spring closure element. Page 7, lines 15-18 of the subject specification.

Accordingly, the applicant submits that the width and thickness of the spring are clearly defined by the specification and figures of the subject application. Therefore, the §112 rejection has been overcome.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 3-4, 7, 9, 11-14 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,862,521 to *van Marwijk et al.*; claims 2, 5-6, 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *van Marwijk*; and claims 10, 16, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(c) as being unpatentable over *van Marwijk* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,231,700 to *Cutshall*. Claims 18-20 have been removed from the application, so

the rejection of these claims is now moot.

Independent claim 1 of the subject application is directed to a protective glove comprising a glove portion made of mesh material, a wrist portion also made of mesh material, and an elastic element attached to the wrist portion in the form of a coiled spring wider than it is thick to improve comfort.

The Examiner asserts that *van Marwijk* discloses a protective glove having a glove portion and wrist portion fabricated from a mesh material and an elastic element attached to the wrist portion in the form of a coiled spring. The Examiner further alleges that it appears from the figures of *van Marwijk* that the coiled spring is wider than it is thick.

However, the applicant disagrees with the Examiner's assertion that the figures of *van Marwijk* show a spring which is wider than it is thick. As shown in Fig. 1 of *van Marwijk*, spring element 4 is a common helical spring. A helical spring has a width which is equal to the thickness of the spring. As Fig. 1 of *van Marwijk* shows a helical spring, the figure fails to show a spring wider than it is thick as claimed by the applicant and shown in Fig. 4 of the subject application. Further, the specification of *van Marwijk* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a spring wider than it is thick as claimed by the applicant.

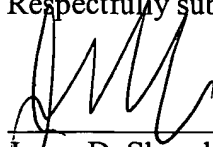
Accordingly, as *van Marwijk* fails to disclose, teach or suggest a spring wider than it is thick as claimed by the applicant, independent claims 1, 15, 16 and 17, and dependent claims 2-14, are patentable over *van Marwijk*.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been addressed or traversed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears

that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts, at (781) 890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JDS', written over a horizontal line.

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